

The increase in violent crime is the predictable result of liberal cities defunding and undermining their law enforcement, like in Austin, Texas, where the far-left city council cut \$150 million from their police budget. What did we see weeks later? A doubling in the number of murders.

Just this week, the police chief of Oakland, California, begged publicly for the city council not to cut the police department budget because it would result in more crime.

When you cut law enforcement budgets, you reduce the number of law enforcement officers. When you reduce the number of law enforcement officers, more criminals will be on the streets.

This is not rocket science. Stop attacking, undermining, and defunding law enforcement, and the crisis of crime will stop being a crisis.

GETTING ANSWERS ON COVID-19 ORIGINS

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken the lives of 4 million individuals across the world, including 600,000 Americans. It took the life of my mother-in-law, as well as the loved ones of many of my constituents in the community that I represent.

As we safely reopen our communities and evaluate lessons learned, we know no one wants to see another pandemic. As we hear of the new delta variant, I know I am not alone in wanting answers regarding the origins of COVID-19.

Reports of this virus having escaped from a lab must be taken seriously and looked into, especially as CCP refuses to cooperate with investigations into COVID-19's origins.

As we mark the CCP centennial, and it continues its quest to be the world's top economic, technological, and military superpower, it is more important than ever that we get to the truth.

This is a public health issue, economic issue, and a national security issue that, as we saw over the past year, will impact each of us.

RESECURING SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, in the 100 days Vice President Harris has been overseeing the border, an estimated 500,000 immigrants and thousands of pounds of drugs have flowed over the border into our country. Despite clear evidence of a worsening crisis, the Biden administration continued to dismantle effective policies.

When I visited the border, Border Patrol agents consistently expressed that eliminating the Remain in Mexico pol-

icy has brought on this current crisis. Now, the Biden administration is considering rescinding yet another successful policy, title 42, which allows CBP to expel adult migrants.

The data is clear. Human traffickers, drug smugglers, and criminals are benefiting from the Biden administration's open border policies. More fentanyl has been seized this year than in all of 2020.

Deadly drugs like fentanyl are flowing across the border into our communities, killing people in my district and all of our districts. Fentanyl was present in 75 percent of the overdose deaths in my home county of Luzerne County in the last year.

An open border is not some faraway problem. Consequences are reverberating across America. We must send a strong message of enforcement and resecure our southern border.

CALL FOR NATION TO RECOGNIZE SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today as I always do, with great respect for all and love of country at heart.

I rise today for a very special reason. Today is one of the days that I will cherish for the rest of my life. What I will do today is something that I believe will help us to commemorate an unfortunate circumstance that our country has been a part of.

This is the day that I will have the opportunity to bring to the attention of the Congress of the United States of America a very special resolution. This is a resolution that is supporting the designation of Slavery Remembrance Day.

The resolution proposes that August 20, 2021, serve as the first Slavery Remembrance Day. And this is done to remind us of the evils of slavery.

Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that as time has passed during my lifetime, there have been those who have sought to whitewash, to sanitize, the evils associated with slavery. This is a necessary resolution because this resolution will forever allow us to remember the horrors of slavery, the events that have shaped our current circumstances.

Slavery was our seminal sin. It was the sin that has, for too long—centuries, for too long—had an impact on the politics, the economics, the social standing of people in our country.

This resolution reads as follows. I shall not read it in its entirety today, but there are some portions of it that are exceedingly important.

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the "Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021."

For those who keep records, it is H. Res. 517. It has been filed, and it has

more than 75 original cosponsors. I am saying original and more than 75 simply because, right up to the last minute, we were adding people, so more than 75 original cosponsors.

I shall do all that I can to memorialize the persons who are original cosponsors, and I shall seek additional cosponsors of this resolution.

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as "Slavery Remembrance Day" and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world.

Whereas we posthumously recognize the following Members of Congress, who served during and after the Reconstruction era, as honorary cosponsors of this resolution.

Their names are listed. I will not read them today. I want to do something very special when these names are mentioned, and they shall be mentioned in the near future. But their names are all here, persons who actually served in the Congress of the United States of America. These are persons who merit a special place in history because of all that they had to endure to serve our country.

Whereas, on August 20, 1619, the first 20 enslaved Africans were brought to what is now Fort Monroe, then Point Comfort.

At that time, the time that they arrived, August 20, 1619, it was Point Comfort. History has a way of reminding us of things. "Point Comfort," the place where 20 enslaved Africans arrived. Point Comfort.

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as "Slavery Remembrance Day" and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world.

Whereas African tribal chiefs captured, enslaved, and sold their captives to transatlantic slave traders.

You can't tell the story without telling the whole story. You have to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If there is a scintilla of a mistake in what I say, I would beg that people would contact me and let me know, because the truth about slavery must be told. And the truth is that African people sold other Africans into slavery.

Whereas over the period of the Atlantic slave trade, from approximately 1526 to 1867, millions of humans were abducted and shipped from Africa, and 10,700,000 arrived in the Americas as personal property.

Whereas the majority of enslaved Africans brought to British North America arrived between 1720 and 1780.

I do want to emphasize the fact that they were personal property, chattels. They could be bought; they could be sold. I do understand that this is a part of the history that we don't cherish. It is a part of the history that we don't care to recall, but it is a part of the history that we must remember.

We cannot allow ourselves to think, for any amount of time, that history will never repeat itself, and we have to be ever vigilant as to prevent history